

ARTICLES

TO BE ENQUIRED OF

By the Church-wardens and Sworn men, within the
Archdeaconry of WORCESTER, in the first visita-
tion of the R. Worshipfull HUGH FLOYD
D^r of Divinity, Archdeacon of Worcester.

Anno Dom. 1624.



AT OXFORD,

Printed by JOHN LICHFIELD, and JAMES SHORT,
Printers to the famous University. 1624.

1624.

A note of due Fees to be paid and receaved in this first Visitation of M. Archdeacon of Worcester, Anno Dom. 1624. the better to satisfie all sorts, and to keepe every one from being wronged herein.

CLERGIE.

For entring the Act of Appearance of every proprietary, Parson, Vicar, Curat, Sequestrator, Schoolemaster, Vsher, & such like to the Register } 4^d

For exhibiting every Proxie for excuse of any ones absence, to the Register } 2^s

For exhibiting every Plurality, to the Register } 2^s

For any Acts Iudicially done, 4^d. For continuing any matter 4^d. and for Exhibiting of Letters of Orders, Institutions, Inductions, Licenses, &c. for every one of them to the Register } 4^d

LAITIE.

For M. Archdeacon for his Articles in Print, from the Churchwardens of every parish Church and Chappell, which are to exhibit presentments. } 6^d

For making & examining each bill of presentment for the Cleark allowed in the office. } 6^d

For exhibiting every bill of presentment 4^d, & for every booke of Articles sent forth 2^d. to the Register in toto. } 6^d

APPARATORS FEES.

For the Apparator from the Churchwardens of every parish Church and Chappell which giueth vp any bill of presentment: for giuing monition and summons, and for carrying and deliury of bookes of Articles to them: for every such place } 6^d

And for the Apparator for warning the Clergie Schoolemasters and other such like aboute said of every of them only. } 4^d



A note of Directions.

THE old Church-wardens and Sidemen of euery parish Church, and Chappell, are to ioyne together in appearance, and presentment vpon the Articles delivered them at the last Visitation, and the Minister also may ioyne in presentment with them, if hee will: or otherwise the Minister may present alone. And the new elected Churchwardens and Sidemen are to appeare, and to take their oathes, and to exhibite their presentments afterwards when they shall bee assigned, as by the 118. and 119. Canon is required. The presentments to be made, are to bee plainly and particularly set downe to answere every part and branch of euery seuerall Article following, & to be subscribed & testified vnder the hands and markes of all and singular the presentors.

2 The Proprietaries, Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and Sequestrators of Ecclesiasticall Benefices, & their respectiue Farmers and all publique Lecturers, Schoolemasters, Vihers, and vnder Schoolemasters, &c. of, or within euery parish. Church, and Chappell, are also to appeare, and to exhibite their Letters of Orders, Institutions, and Inductions, & all other their Dispensations, Licenses, and faculties whatsoever in this first Visitation of the moderne Archdeacon now visiting. And they are also to make reall payment of all such Procurations and Synodals, and other duties as are respectiue due and payable by every of them severally in this Visitation.



THE TENOUR OF THE OATH TO BE
*miniftered to all and every of the Churchwardens
and Side men or Affiftants in the faid
Vifitation.*

YOV, and every of you shall sweare by Almighty God,
that all favour, feare, and affection, and all other sinister
corruption whatfoeuer, fet aside, vpon due considerati-
on of these Articles giuen you in charge, you will make a true,
plaine, perfect, and particular answer and presentment in wri-
ting to the same Articles, and to every branch and part there-
of, presenting all and every offenders & offences therein men-
tioned, so as may stand with the glory of God, the discharge of
your consciences, and the iurisdiction of the Ecclesiasticall
Court, wherein you shall deale sincerely, faithfully, & vpright-
ly as before God; So helpe you God in Christ Iesus.



ARTICLES.

Concerning Church and Church-yard.



Whether is your Church and Chancell in all respects wel and sufficiently repaired, and kept sweet and cleane: haue you therein the tenne Commandements, the Articles of the beleefe, and other godly sentences fairely written; the Bible of the largest volume, the booke of Common prayer, the two volumes of Homilies, the booke intituled God and the King, and all other bookes requisite, a seemely Pulpit, a convenient seat for the Minister at prayers, a large & comely Surplesse, whole and vntorne?

2 Haue you in your said Church a strong chest for Almes, with a hole in the top, and thre lockes and keyes thereto? Is the mony therein put, imploied to the vse of the poore?

3 Haue you a Register of Christnings, Weddings, and Burialls, in a booke of parchment duly kept in a chest with thre lockes and keyes?

4 Hath any man pulled downe or vncovered, or suffered to decay any parsonage or vicorage houses, or any Church, Chancell, Chappell, Vestrie, or Church house, in part, or in all?

5 Whether is your Parsonage, Vicorage, or Ministers house, or any part thereof conuerted, made, vled, or imploied to, or for any common passage, entry, through-fare, or common way for people, or cattle vsually to passe through, forth of the Churchyard and into or vnto any Alehouse, Tipling, or victualing house, common Inne, or wine Taberne. And by whom, and by whose sufferance and permission, and how long hath the same beene so made, enioyed, vled, imploied, or rather misused and misimploied as aforesaid?

6 Whether are the pales, fences, enclosures, and markes of the ancient bounds and limites of your parsonage, vicorage, or ministers house, or of the courts, entries, gardens, back-sides, or other appurtenances belonging to the same, or any part thereof remoued and altered, or taken away from their ancient places, bounds and limites thereof, and laid and vled to and with any victualing house, common Inne, or wine Tauerne. And by whom, when, and by whose sufferance, and how long time hath the same beene so done and suffered. And whether by the continuance of the vse of the premises as aforesaid, may not the same in shor time growe out of knowledge, and by some prescription become preiudiciall to the Church, or succeeding Incumbent thereof?

Articles.

7 Are your Bells, Bell-ropes, and clocke in good repaire, & well ordered? Is your Churchyard well fenced and decently kept? Is it not prophaned with fighting, brawling, chiding, gaming, dancing, playing, or with unlawfull cattle, or otherwise; and how, and by whom, and by whose default?

Ministers and Curates.

8 Doth he read or say the whole diuine seruice every Sunday and Holyday, and administer the holy Sacraments according to the book of Common prayer. Is your Minister a licensed Preacher, doth hee diligently preach sound doctrine, and for matters of gouernment seriously teach and maintaine the Kings Supremacie vnder God within his Pastorall dominions, ouer all persons, and in causes aswell Ecclesiasticall as Civil, and the abolishing of all forraigne power?

9 Hath your Minister more Benefices then one? if two, or more, doth he reside vpon one of them himselte, and maintaine a licensed Preacher on the other? If he haue but one is he resident, and dwelling thereupon; is he painfull in his vocation, of sober and good conuersation, and giuen to hospitality?

10 Doth your Minister vse decencie of Apparell, aswell in the Church as elsewhere. And in time of diuine prayers, and administration of the Sacraments, doth he vse to weare the Surplesse; and if he be a Graduate, such a hood as is agreeable to his calling?

11 Is your Minister a peace-maker, and no sower of discorde, or is he suspected, famed, or noted of any notozious crime; or giueth he any ill example? or doth any Minister with you forsake his calling?

12 Doth any preach in your Parish, that refuseth to conforme himselte to the lawes, ordinances, and rites of the Church of England?

13 Hath your Minister a Curate, & how is he licensed? doth he serue two Cures, & doth he bid the Fasting dayes, & Holy-dayes, conuenantes and allowed?

14 If your Minister be not a Preacher allowed, doth he procure monethly Sermons; & when there is no Sermon, doth hee read an Homily, doth he take on him to expound any text of Scripture?

15 What Preachers haue come from any other place, & preached in your Parish: haue you their names written in a booke kept for that purpose; hath such a Preacher subscribed his name thereto, and set down the day when he preached, and by whom licensed?

16 Hath your Minister obtained his Benefice by any Symoniacall compact, either directly, or indirectly?

17 Hath any of your Parish, or of any other parish, vnreuerently blasphemously

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your Minister, laid violent hands on him, or disgraced his office & function, by word or deed?

Diuine Service.

18 Is diuine seruice in due time on Sundaies, Holydaies, and at other times appointed, reuerently said or sung in your Church or Chappell, with the Litaney on Wednesdaies and Fridaies; and all other rites and ceremonies, according to the prescript forme of common prayer in the Communion Booke?

19 Whether doth any not being licensed (or any not ordered at least for a Deacon) say Common prayer openly in your Church, or Chappell?

20 Doe any men, young or old, vse to weare their Hattes in the Church or Chappell in the time of diuine Service, or are there any that behaue themselves disorderly in the Church, Chappell, or Churchyard, or any disturbers of diuine seruice or sermons?

21 Whether doe any victualers (or others in your parish) suffer any drinking or gaming in their houses on Sundaies or Holidayes, especially in time of Diuine seruice or sermons?

22 Whether any in your parish vpon the sabaoth daies, or holidayes doe vse their Trade, or doe any other worke or labour, as Biewing, Baking, Washing, Barbing, or such like, or doe any Percers, Drapers, Shomakers, Butchers, or others whatsoever open their shops for sale of wares vpon those dayes, or doe hedge, ditch, digge, carry, or drawe burdens by themselves, their seruants, horses, or other cattle whatsoever on such daies?

The holy Communion.

23 Haue you a decent Communion Table on a frame, with a seemly carpet, and a cloth of Linnen, a communion cup and couer of silver, a faire Flagon of pewter or purer mettle for the Wine, a plate for the Bread, & a Towell to lay ouer it?

24 Whether is there any in your parish, which being full sixteen years of age and vpwrd, hath not receaued the holy communion thre seuerall times in the yeare past at least, in his or her parish church whereof Easter to be one of the three times?

25 Doth your Minister instruct and examine his Parishioners concerning the Sacraments at conuenient times, befoze hee administer the Communion. And doth he admit any thereto that cannot say at least the Lords praier, the Articles of the Christian faith, and the ten Commandments?

26 Is your Communion ministered with Bread and Wine, consecrated in such order as in the booke of common prayer is appointed? And

Articles.

7 Are your Bells, Bell-ropes, and clocke in good repaire, & well ordered? Is your Churchyard well fenced and decently kept? Is it not profaned with fighting, brawling, chiding, gaming, dancing, playing, or with unlawfull cattle, or otherwise; and how, and by whom, and by whose default?

Ministers and Curates.

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NOTE

This volume has a
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academy
microforms

Articles.

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24 Whether is there any in your parish, which being full sixteen years of age and vppward, hath not receaued the holy communion thre severall times in the yeare past at least, in his or her parish church whereof Easter to be one of the thre times?

25 Doth your Minister instruct and examine his Parishioners concerning the Sacraments at conuenient times, before hee administred the Communion. And doth he admit any thereto that cannot say at least the Lords prayer, the Articles of the Christian faith, and the ten Commandments?

26 Is your Communion ministred with Bread and Wine, consecrated in such order as in the booke of common prayer is appointed? And

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both your Minister deliuer both kindes to euery seuerall Communicant, with the blessing prescribed in the booke of common prayer?

27 Doth any in your parish receaue the holy Communion either sitting, standing, or otherwise then kneeling, as is prescribed in the booke of common prayer; or doe any refuse to receaue the same kneeling; and doth your Minister admit any to receaue the communion otherwise then kneeling?

28 Doth your Minister admit any notorious offenders, or any schismatickes to the holy communion before due penance enioyned by the Ordinary, be duly performed by them, or doth hee admit any notoriously knowne to be out of charity; or any that hath done any open wrong to his Neighbour before reconciliation made to the party wronged?

29 Whether doth your Minister appoint and obserue so many Communiones in one yeare as that the parishioners may conveniently receaue all of them there thre seuerall times in the yeare: And doth he vse to giue publique notice thereof in the Church, the Saboth day next going before every such Communiones, that the Parishioners may prepare themselves to be partakers thereof?

Baptisme.

30 Haue you in your Church a convenient Font of stone, well kept, and couered, standing in the ancient place; doth your Minister Baptise therein, or in any Vason, or other thing, or with any other ceremonies then such as are allowed in the booke of common prayer; or doth he omit neglect, or not vse all the ceremonies therein prescribed; and doth hee vse the signe of the Crosse in Baptisme?

31 Doth your Minister refuse to Baptise any children of Christian parents, that are brought to the Church?

32 Are Parents urged to be present at the Baptising of their Children; or be any admitted to be Godfathers, or Godmothers that haue not receaued the holy Communion; or doe any parents refuse to haue their children signed with the signe of the crosse in their Baptisme?

33 Haue any children that were bozne in your parish bene carried out of the parish to be baptised elsewhere; or haue any not bene baptised at all or in places, or by parties vnkowne?

34 Whether hath your Minister refused, deferred, or delaied to come vnto, and to Christen any child being in weaknesse, or in danger of death, being thereunto required, by reason whereof such a child hath (through his negligence, or by his default) died unbaptised?

Catechisme.

35 Doth your Minister or his Curate, duely Catechise according to the

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the late Canon every Sunday, such childzen and servants of both sexes, as are of convenient age, or at least so many of them by course, as the time will serue?

36 Doe Parents and Householdiers bring, or send their childzen and servants to the Church every Sunday duely to be catechised, according as the late Canons require, and who are negligent therein?

Matrimonie.

37 Whether is Matrimonie solemnized in your church or chappell, according to the booke of common prayer?

38 Haue you in your church a Table of Degrees of Mariage, are any married within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity therein forbidden, or doe any childzen vnder the age of twenty one yeares, contract themselves, or marry without consent of their Parents or Guardians?

39 Haue any been married without Banns thise asked in the church three seuerall sundaies or Holydaies (vnesse by License of the Ordinary, granted vnder seale) or at any time of the day, then betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone, or at any times prohibited, that is to say, from aduent Sunday to the Octaues of the Epiphany, from Septuagesima Sunday to the Octaues of Easter: from Rogation Sunday, to Trinity Sunday?

40 Haue any that dwell in your parish, been married in any other parish, or any of another parish beene married in your parish; or haue any bin married priuately out of the church or face of the congregation, when, where by whom, and who were present at such marriages?

41 Haue any women not well knowne to be married, beene deliuered of any child in your parish and in whose house: or hath any woman in your parish beene carnally knowne, or begotten with child before marriage, & by whom?

42 Haue any forsaken their wiues or Husbands, and married others; haue any married againe after they haue beene diuorced: or doe any which haue beene diuorced keepe company still together?

43 Doe any married couples lue asunder and not together, and doe either of them keepe in their house, or secretly resort to any other, to the raising of suspicion of some of incontinency?

44 Hath any in your parish for money or reward, married any Woman that committed Fornication or Adultery with an other man? Or hath any unmarried Woman begotten with child, gone out of your parish before she hath done penance enioyned her by the Ordinary, where was she, or is she receaued or harbored, at whose charge, and who conueyed her away?

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Visitation of the Sicke.

45 Doth your Minister or Curate visite the sicke, doth hee admonish them to repentance, comfort the Penitent, and exhort them to charitable & almes deeds?

Buriall of the Dead.

46 Are your Dead buried according to the forme of Buriall set down in the booke of Common prayer; or haue any beene buried secretly or in the night, who and by whom and who were present thereat?

47 Doe the Executors or Administrators, or other friends of them that are buried in church or chancell, repaire againe the pauements, & giue any thing to the Church?

Churching of Women.

48 Doe any Women refuse to giue God thanks openly in the church or (as we tearme it) to be churched at convenient times after child-birth, or doth any Minister refuse to church them, or church them any otherwise then is prescribed in the booke of common prayer?

49 Hath any Woman unlawfully begotten with child, beene admitted to publike thanksgiuing in the church, before she hath performed such penance as was enioyned her by the Ordinary, or at least beene churched in a white sheet, and confessed her fault penitently before sufficient witnesses, and undertaken to stand to the censure of her Ordinary for her said offence?

Parish Clarkes.

50 Haue you a Parish Clarke chosen by the Minister, is hee of honest conuersation, hath he competent skill in reading, writing, and singing: And doth any withhold or detain his Wages or duties from him?

Schoolemasters.

51 Haue you any Schoole house, and how is it repaired. And haue you any Schoolemaster in your Parish that teacheth publicly, or privately, is he lawfully licensed: Doth hee come duely to the Church and receiue the holy Communion? Doth he instruct his Schollers in the Catechisme allowed, & in the Booke intituled God and the King: causeth hee them to repaire to diuine Prayers in the Church, and to heare and note Sermons: Teacheth he any other Grammar then that which is allowed?

52 Is any Schoole-master knowne or suspected publicly or priuately to read to his Schollers, or suffer them to read any Booke that may confirme them in Poperie, superstition, or disobedience to the Kings Maie-
tie, or to his lawes Ecclesiasticall or Ciuil, & how many either men or women, doe teach childzen in your Parish, and what be their names?

Schism.

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Schismatickes and Recusants of all sorts.

53 Doe you know any that teach or maintaine any doctrine contrarie to the Articles agreed vpon in the conuocation Anno Dom. 1562.

54 Doe any preach, minister the Communion, baptize children, or church Women in private houses, or other where then in the Church, except it be in cases of necessitie?

55 Know you any that absent themselves from the Church negligently or wilfully, how long haue they so done: And of them that are absent without a sufficient and lawfull cause, is the forfeiture of rii d. taken euery Sunday, & conuerted to the vse of the poore, according to the Statute. Eliz. 1.

56 In your Parish where there is a Preacher, doe any vse to absent themselves from his sermon, and resort to any other?

57 Know you any that forbear to participate with the church of England in prayer or sacraments, either ~~denying~~ the Church to be Apostolicall, or condemning the ceremonies thereof as superstitious?

58 Haue you in your parish any Popish Recusants, any halfe Papists that come to the Church, & receiue not the Communion, any Church Papists that come & receiue themselves, but either perswade others, or maintaine their wiues, children, family, or friends not to come?

59 Doe any seminary Priest or Iesuite, resort to any place within this Dioces, or suspect you any such: Or doe you know any that resort to any Popish Priest or Iesuite?

60 Know you any that by writing, talke or argument, impugne the Kings supremacie, or any that haue kept in their custodie, that sell disperse, carry or deliuer vnto others any vnlawfull Bookes against the Religion & Government established, or in defence of any forraigne power, or domestical consistorie?

Excommunicated persons.

61 Are all excommunicated persons kept out of the Church from diuine Prayers, & receiuing of the holy communion vntill they bee lawfully absouled: And are there any in your Parish which haue stood excommunicated forty dayes & vpwards; are such persons as stand excommunicated, once in euery six moneths denounced in your Church in time of diuine seruice vpon some Sunday?

62 Hath any Excommunicated person not absouled (at least in his extremities) not giuing any testimony of his repentance before his departure, beene buried in Christian burials, who buried him, her, or them; where, and when, and who were present at such burials?

63 Doe any retaine or keepe in their house or seruice any person denounced excommunicate, or doe any way encourage them therein, or conuerse

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with them in buying, selling, eating, drinking, or otherwise?

Wills, Testaments, and Administrations.

64 Doe any in your parish administer the Goods of the dead, or any way intermeddle therewith, without lawfull authoritie committed vnto them vnder the Ordinaries seale?

65 Know you any in your parish that suppress the last Will of the Dead, or any that forge or alter any Wills, or any Executors that fulfil not the Testators Will; or any that detaine Legacies giuen to any charitable uses?

Generall Articles.

66 Doe any in your parish prophane the Sabaoth dayes, or not duely obserue the Holy-dayes appointed? Are the Ember Fasts orderly obserued at the foure times of the yeare appointed?

67 Are the dayes and ~~or~~ ^{and} Perambulation duely obserued in the Rogation weeke: if not, in whose default?

68 Are the Canons, Constitutions, & orders, made & agreed vpon in the conuocation house Anno Dom. 1603. read ouer once euery yeare in your Church vpon Sundayes, or Holy-dayes, according to his Maiesties Com-mandement in that behalfe?

69 Doth your Minister yearely present, and giue by in writing to the Ordinary, the names of all Reculants, & halfe Reculants men & women, as well sojourners as parishioners, & common guests in your parish, aboue the age of thirteene yeares, according to the 114 Canon, or not?

70 Doe any in your parish take vpon them to practise Physicke or Chirurgery, not being lawfully licensed?

71 Are any in your parish (or which were of your parish, & are now departed) knowne, suspected, famed, or reported to haue offended in Fornication, Adultery, Incest, Witchcraft, Sorcery, Charming, Usury, Swearing, Drunkenesse, common slaundering, sowing of discord, brawling, scolding, or any other vncleannesse of life, or bad manners?

72 Are any Householdors in your parish (in whose house there is any one that can read) which haue not the booke intitled God & the King, and who be they which want the same?

73 Haue any Apparators, or others, taken any reward to compound or conceale any offence presentable, or punishable in the Ecclesiasticall Court, let this be manifested, & information & presentment made for enery offence accordingly?

74 You shal further present whether any in your parish vpon Sundayes or Holydaies, do vse any dauncing, plaies, or other sports or pastimes whatsoever, before all Seruice on those daies be fully ended: And are the same v-

Articles.

Let by any of another parish, or by any which haue not the same day been as diuine prayers in their own parish Church, who be they which haue offended in any of the premises?

Churchwardens and Sidemen.

75 Are your Churchwardens & Sidemen chosen yearely in the Easter weeke according to the Canons: And doe the Churchwardens yearely, truly make & deliuer vp in writing, their account of all their receipts & disbursements whatsoeuer, by them receiued & paid out for the Parish, & of all the Church goods, Bookes, and other things, as the Canons require?

76 Doe your Churchwardens themselues come duely to the Church to diuine Prayers & sermons: & doe they their best endeauours, especiallie vpon Sundaies and Holidaies, to cause all Parishioners to doe the like?

77 Whether is there a transcript or copie of the Register Booke of the Church, of christenings, weddinges, ~~burialles~~ ~~exhumations~~ ~~and~~ ~~delivered~~ ~~up~~ ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~Registrie~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Ordinarie~~, or not?

78 Haue the late Churchwardens concealed any crime, offence or disorder in their times, & not presented the same; what be the matters so concealed: Doth any trouble, molest, or vex the Minister, churchwardens or sidemen for being presented by the: & who be they that so do: And haue your churchwardens continued in that office aboue one yeare without a new election?

79 Haue you aduisedly & diligentlie perused, read, or heard others read & peruse this booke of Articles, & euery particuler Article & branch thereof: & haue you framed your Answers & presentments to the same accordingly?

80 Generallie, whether doe you know any of the Canons (specially see forth and approued by his Maiestie) broken, or any Ecclesiasticall matter worthe to be presented, or not; and if you doe, you shall truly present the same (by the Oath you haue taken) aswell now as hereafter when it shall come to your knowledge?

81 Whether any Churchwardens, Questmen or Sidemen of any Parish haue beene called and inforced to present any faults committed in their Parishes, otherwise then at the Visitations or time and times limited in the 116 Canon.

FINIS



